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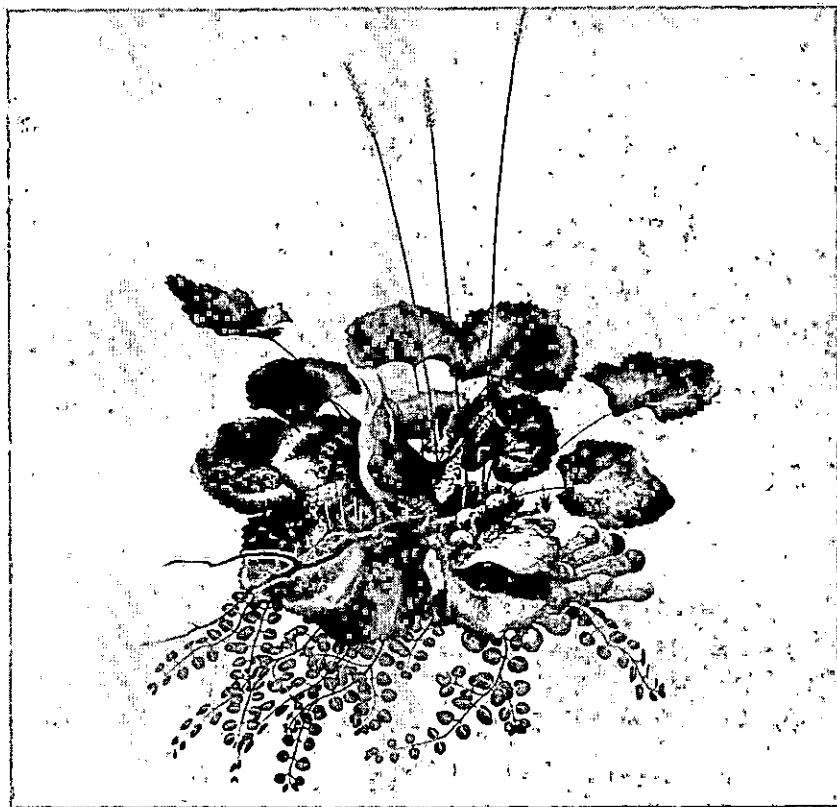
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 48

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No. 1



CAROLINA WREN

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The cover picture is a reproduction of Ray Harm's painting of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*); it is shown amid the lustrous leaves of the Galax (*Galax aphylla*) plant. The Carolina Wren, a permanent resident, is known to sing in every month of the year. It is interesting to note that the 1971 mid-winter bird counts show a remarkable increase for this species, as compared with 1970.

COMMENTS ON A TWO-YEAR WOOD DUCK SURVEY

JERRY W. ALLEN

Since nest site selection by Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) is very secretive, little is known about reproduction and nest box use in Land Between the Lakes. A nest box and brood survey was conducted during the 1970 and 1971 breeding seasons in the portion of Land Between the Lakes lying north of US 68. Results for 1970 were previously reported (Allen, 1971).

Land Between the Lakes, a 170,000-acre area in western Kentucky and Tennessee, is being developed by the Tennessee Valley Authority as a demonstration in out-door recreation and conservation education. An estimated 145,000 acres of the area is hardwood forest composed mainly of oak and hickory, with certain areas having timber that could be possible nest cavity sites. An estimated 26,400 acres is classified as bottom land, 139,200 acres as upland woods, and approximately 23,000 acres is open land.

Methods

All boxes were the typical wooden type, constructed of rough lumber. The boxes were approximately 11 x 11 x 24 inches inside dimensions, with a 3½- to 4½-inch entrance hole. Three to five inches of sawdust was added to each box.

During the 1970 and 1971 study, the boxes were checked at two-week intervals so as not to create too much disturbance. Other investigators usually checked boxes more frequently; Bellrose (1964) checked housing units on 10-day intervals, Grice and Rogers (1965) checked their boxes weekly.

The nest boxes were numbered 1 through 18 in 1970, and numbers 19 through 39 were added in 1971. The location of each box was plotted on a map of the area, and information was recorded at each visit on note cards. Wood Duck acceptance, productivity, and nest losses due to predators were determined. Use of the boxes by other animals was also noted.

Following the survey in 1970, it was believed that a larger number of boxes would possibly increase reproduction. In 1971, an additional 21 boxes were erected on Hematite Lake by the Murray State University chapter of The Wildlife Society. Some were mounted on poles back to back; others were mounted singly. Practically all the boxes were mounted over water, usually toward the center of water areas or well beyond the waterline. Height above the water ranged from two feet to six feet, with the average about four feet. Several boxes in the water did not have predator guards, but most were protected by strips of 24- to 36-inch light gauge sheet metal.

Results and Discussion

In 1970, there were 18 boxes available. Two of these were used, but only one was successful (Table 1). A total of 19 eggs were laid (Table 1), 11 hatched. This was 11.1 percent use of the boxes, with 50 percent of the nest attempts successful. The average number of eggs laid per nest was 9.5.

The 1971 season brought increased nesting activity and along with it several complications. Of the 39 boxes available six were used, but only four nests produced successful broods (Table 1). This was 15.4 percent

use and 66.6 percent nesting success. Evidently there was some competition for nest boxes, since dump-nesting was encountered for the first time. (Dump-nesting is a term used when two or more hens lay in the same nest.) The complication of dump-nesting injected a measure of difficulty in establishing a precise clutch size. There was supporting evidence that nests containing 16 or more eggs were dump-nests. Dump-nesting was believed to have taken place in three nests, with the largest containing 23 eggs (Table 2). In one case four eggs did not hatch, possibly because the eggs became chilled. An earlier inspection revealed that four outside eggs were cooler than the other eggs. It is also possible that yearling ducks laid their eggs in this nest after incubation had already started. In 1971 the average clutch size was 16 eggs, including dump-nests. An average of 10.6 ducklings were hatched per box in 1971 (Table 1) for a total of 64 ducklings as compared to an average of 5.5 in 1970, when 11 hatched and 9 survived.

Addition of new nest boxes may be responsible for the increase in numbers of nests in boxes, and as a direct result, the number of ducklings hatched.

TABLE 1

**Use and Success of Wood Duck Nest Boxes
Near Hematite and Energy Lakes
Land Between The Lakes
1970 - 1971**

	1970	1971
Number of Boxes Available	18	39
Number of Boxes Used	2	6
Percent of Available Boxes Used	11.1	15.4
Number of Nests Started	2	6
Number of Nests Completed	1	4
Percent of Nests Completed	50	66.6
Number of Eggs Laid	19	96
Number of Eggs Hatched	11	64
Average Number Eggs Laid Per Box Used	9.5	16
Average Number Eggs Hatched Per Box Used	5.5	10.6
Nests Lost to Predators	1	2
Percent of Nests Lost to Predators	50	33.3
Number of Single Nests	2	3

Nine of the vacant boxes appeared to have been inspected and/or prepared for nesting by females. Only new boxes in 1971 were used for nest sites. This would indicate that the carefully selected sites of the new boxes were chosen more readily by Wood Ducks than the randomly located sites of the older boxes, some dating back to the time of the Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge.

The nest failures mentioned earlier appear to have resulted from raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) predation; in every case there was sufficient evidence to support this supposition. Also, there was evidence that a hen had been eaten along with the eggs in Box No. 32, when the nest was raided.

Rate of predation seemed to be directly proportional to the distance from the shore. Boxes near the shoreline were the first to be raided, and

the others were raided as water fell and distance from the shoreline decreased. It appears that a mistake was made when predator guards were omitted from some of the boxes believed to be far enough out in the water to be free of predation. It is suggested that all boxes be predator-proofed before the next breeding season.

It may be significant to note that no Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were present in 1971 but were present in 1970. However, in 1971 some interference from the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus lucovicianus*) was found in unoccupied boxes, but it seems logical that "woodies" could easily evict them if necessary.

Several of the unoccupied boxes contained paper wasps (*Polistes polistes*) which were annoying to the surveyor and probably to Wood Duck nest site selection.

TABLE 2
Nest Box Production
1970 - 1971

Year	Box Number	Possible Dump-Nest	Number Eggs Laid	Number Eggs Hatched
1970	12	No	11	11
	16	No	8	0
1971	19	Yes	16	16
	24	Yes	16	12*
	29	No	14	0
	32	No	14	0
	33	No	13	13
	36	Yes	23	23

(Tabulations showing two years' individual nest box production on Hematite Lake and nearby areas in Land Between the Lakes.)

* The final inspection revealed 4 eggs still in the nest with the embryo not fully developed.

A spot check by boat revealed that there was no increase in number of broods seen on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes (Table 3), although it did indicate there were fewer non-productive adults in 1971 than in 1970.

The fact that seven pair of Wood Ducks were seen on the islands in Hematite Lake several days in succession seems to indicate that nearby tree cavities supply the majority of nest sites for Wood Ducks, but conclusive evidence is not available to support the theory.

Most of the boxes are in good shape; however, seven or eight need to be repaired, replaced, and/or moved to a more desirable location. The problem of box destruction (not nest destruction) lies partially with man. People cannot seem to resist a peek in boxes near a trail. As a result, in most instances the tops are left off and the boxes made unfit for nesting sites.

If boxes are given the attention required for effective Wood Duck nest site selection, the overall outlook for management of the Wood Duck on Hematite Lake is very promising.

TABLE 3
Spot-Check Brood Count
By Boat
On Kentucky and Barkley Lakes
1970 - 1971

Lake	Broods Seen	Brood Hens Seen	Ducklings Seen In Broods	Other Adults Seen	Non-Brood Hens Seen	Males Seen	Location
Kentucky 1970	1 0 1 0	1 0 1 0	8 0 10 0	0 18 4 0	0 9 0 1	1 9 4 0	Vickers Rhodes Duncan Smith
Barkley 1970	1 0 1	1 0 1	4 0 10	0 0 0	0 2 0	0 1 0	Shaw Branch Nancy Ford Fulton
Totals 1970	4	4	32	22	12	15	
Kentucky 1971	1 1 1	1 1 1	6 2 8	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Rhodes Higgins Duncan
Barkley 1971	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 9 0	2 0 2	1 0 1	1 0 1	Mammoth Fn. Fulton Nancy Ford
Totals 1971	4	4	25	4	2	2	

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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1971-1972

Here is our summary of the 1971 bird counts, a good average survey of representative parts of Kentucky. A total of 102 species, plus one hybrid, and about 2,179,007 individuals are on the table. In addition, six species—Horned Grebe, Green Heron, Bonaparte's Gull, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, and Red Phalarope—appear for the count period.

Ducks are down in numbers, particularly in sections along the Ohio River, possibly because of high water conditions. Hawks are well represented, with the Red-tailed being the most numerous. Rough-legged Hawks have been "regulars" in recent years; and many of us have seen them at very close range.

The mild fall may account for the late stragglers, such as Green Heron, Catbird, and Palm Warblers. At the same time, some northern species, such as the Glaucous Gulls and Evening Grosbeaks add interest to the count. The Brewer's Blackbird is another bird of unusual occurrence.

Brown Thrashers appear on seven counts, with 15 at Yelvington. Myrtle Warblers show approximately a 200% increase over 1970, and the Eastern Bluebird a 30% increase. Field and White-crowned Sparrows show a slight decrease in numbers, and White-throated Sparrows a big gain, compared with last year's figures.

THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of KY 453 ("The Trace") and Mulberry Flat Road; lake and river shores 30%, fields 30%, deciduous wood 40%).—Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Early overcast with threat of rain clearing in early a.m.; temp. 36° to 43°; wind NNW, 8 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 46 (29 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 231 (20 on foot, 211 by car). Total, 65 species, about 61,440 individuals.

The best find was the Rough-legged Hawk, carefully observed perching and flying, by Bob Smith and Larry Lamely; all marks clearly seen. This hawk, although less rare in the area than reported sightings indicate, has appeared on the Christmas Count only once before (1959), according to my records.

Loggerhead Shrikes continue to increase in numbers in the count area. The eight Red-headed Woodpeckers represent virtually a crash, this species having been a common winter resident since the explosion year of 1966.

The Golden Eagles (2 ad., 5 im.) set a new record for this count, so far as numbers are concerned. There is a possibility of some duplication, but all birds were carefully studied and characteristic markings noted by the observers.

Despite the low lake levels and expanses of mudflats, we have not had the flocks of mixed shorebirds that lingered in Western Kentucky the three previous winters.

Hematite Lake, drained in midsummer to control the water shield (*Brasenia*), is largely unfilled yet, because of the dry autumn.

The 50,000 Starlings represent (1) a slight increase in the roost at Kentucky Dam and (2) my conviction that I was far too cautious in reporting this roost on last year's count. I have repeatedly watched the flights to the roost and am confident that 50,000 individuals is a more

accurate but still modest estimate of the numbers present.—Mike Alexander, John B. Andrews, Don Burchfield, Willard Gray, Robert Head, Larry Lamely, Edwin Larson, Clell T. Peterson (compiler), Scott Seiber, Robert Smith, Paul W. Sturm, Sherman Swanson, Mark Thurman, Andy Wilson.

MURPHEY'S POND (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the main pool of Murphey's Pond, including points along the north and western edge of the Pond, Baltimore Bottoms, and adjoining farmland; wooded area 30%, farmland 40%, swamp 20%, overgrown fields 10%).—Dec. 26; 5:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 62° to 70°; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 10 (9 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 46 (7 on foot, 39 by car). Total, 53 species, about 1,992 individuals.

The following four species were new for the counts in the area: Bufflehead, Black Vulture, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Purple Finch.

Five species set new records for individuals: Red-headed Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Swamp Sparrow.

The increased logging in the immediate area may be responsible for the decline in Hairy Woodpeckers. Also, the owls, quite common last year, were down to one lone bird.—Edwin Larson (compiler), Clell T. Peterson.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forrest Grove).—Jan. 2; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy in a.m., then clear; temp. 38° to 50°; wind NW, 10 m.p.h. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (7 on foot, 11 by car). Total, 46 species, about 2,384 individuals. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Brown Thrasher. The 10 Bald Eagles were observed at one time, about 7:00 a.m.—C. L. Frazer (compiler) Jim Frazer.

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Madisonville, to include W. W. Hancock farm, Brown Road, Elk Creek, KY 892, 2 lakes near Madisonville; deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, fields 20%).—Dec. 26; 6:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mostly cloudy, gradually clearing in late afternoon; temp. 55° to 64°; wind SW, 8-12 m.p.h. Seven observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 10¼ (8¼ on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 43 (7 on foot, 36 by car). Total, 43 species, about 2,003,645 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Horned Grebe, Canada Goose, Canvasback, Red-tailed Hawk, Bobwhite, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Tree Sparrow.)

A mild and warm December has resulted in a good variety of waterfowl, including two large flocks of American Coots: 700 and 400. The big black-bird roost has moved about two miles southwest of the previous location and is now near Memorial Gardens, McLeod Lane. It obviously is much larger than in 1970 and covers a wider area.—Chip Coffman, Mrs. Selby Coffman, James W. Hancock (compiler), Robert Bold, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Trother, Mrs. Mary Travis.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE RESORT PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center park lodge area; deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmland: wooded area 60%, open fields 15%, farmland 10%, lake shore 15%).—

Dec. 27: 7:20 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. Heavy overcast and slight drizzle to clear and sunny; temp. 56° to 66°; wind SE, 10-20 m.p.h. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 8½ (7½ on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 35½ (9½ on foot, 26 by car). Total, 43 species, about 704 individuals.—Don Andrews, Willard Gray (compiler), Kim Neese, Tim Neese.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ford and Wilson farms, east of Sorgho).—Dec. 27; (time in the field?—Ed.). Cloudy; temp. 55° to 65°; wind, calm to 10 m.p.h. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 14 (10 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 60 (10 on foot, 50 by car). Total, 47 species, about 2,772 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Mallard, Marsh Hawk, Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike, Purple Finch.)

Comparing the 1971 figures with those of 1970, we find that there was an increase in the numbers of Common Snipe, the Great Horned Owl, and the Barred Owl; a decrease in hawks, and the absence of waterfowl.—Joseph Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center US 60, approximately 2 miles east of Maceo; largely same territory as in previous years: woodlands 30%, fields 40%, river, lakes, creek, and ponds 15%, roadsides and yards 15%).—Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy in a.m., but clear in p.m.; temp. 34° to 38°; wind, calm. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 30 (14 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 36 (10 on foot, 26 by car). Total, 53 species, about 3,264 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Black Duck, Savannah Sparrow.)

The two Great Horned Owls, observed by George Ray in the Pup Creek Bottoms, were a really interesting find. In spite of suitable habitat, we were unable to find a Red-shouldered Hawk or a Marsh Hawk.

Mrs. Lawanda Elliott and Mrs. Bea Whalen, who did not hike with us, sent in a sizeable list of birds from observations made in their immediate surroundings.—Joe Ford, Eleanor Iles, Ramon Iles, A. L. Powell, Jr. (compiler), Mildred Powell, George Ray, Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray, Bea Whalen, Lawanda Elliott.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green).—Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temp. 24° to 38°; wind NW, 2-5 m.p.h. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (13 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 104 (14 on foot, 90 by car). Total, 52 species, about 27,794 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Creeper.)

The numbers of Starlings, Grackles, and Red-winged Blackbirds reported in the Bowling Green count are misleading. A huge roost is located on a farm, two miles west of Bowling Green. A conservative estimate of the number of birds is 5,000,000 with some estimates as high as 7,000,000. The approximate percentage of species involved is as follows: Starlings, 50%, Grackles, 40%, and Red-winged Blackbirds, 10%. This roost was not included in the Christmas count total because most of the birds enter the roost at twilight when visibility is poor, and the number would not be an

actual count but an approximation. Also, most of the birds fly into the roost from areas outside our actual count area.—Dulcie Clark, Scott Ford, Millard Gipson, Robert Pace, Herbert E. Shadowen (compiler).

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Beech Grove Baptist Church, to include Wininger and Elmore Farms, Beaver Creek, Barren River Reservoir Ramps, Gillenwater and Brigadoon Farms; roadsides and farming areas 40%, woodlands 30%, lake sites 20%, creek bottoms 10%).—Jan. 2; 7:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Cloudy to clear; temp. 30° to 43°; wind NW and W, 5-25 m.p.h. Streams flush. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 30 (25¼ on foot, 4¾ by car); total party-miles, 81 (65 on foot, 16 by car). Total, 53 species, about 3,185 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Lesser Scaup, Horned Owl, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, and Rusty Blackbird.)

The Great Blue Herons are not in evidence as in previous winters. Myrtle Warblers have been seen in large numbers, but few were tabulated on count day. Forty Red-headed Woodpeckers are wintering in Brigadoon Forest, apparently due to the heavy acorn crop.—Frances Ellis, Marquita Gillenwater, Faye Starr, Russell Starr (compiler), Ronald Ward.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 42 and KY 22, to include Falls of the Ohio, Jeffersontown, Pewee Valley, Goshen and southern Indiana from Jeffersonville to Utica; deciduous woods 20%, brushy fields 15%, fields and pastures 20%, swamps and marshes 5%, Ohio River and Falls of the Ohio 40%).—Dec. 19; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 32° to 39°; wind W, 10-25 m.p.h. Rain in afternoon; small ponds frozen, other water open. Twenty-two observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 62 (36 on foot, 26 by car); total party-miles, 306 (29 on foot, 277 by car). Total, 82 species, 1 hybrid, about 21,489 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Red Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Snowy Owl.)

The Mallard x Black Duck was a hybrid, having the typical green patch on side of the head, observed by Lattis and Monroe with mixed flock of both species. The Glaucous Gulls, a first-year bird and a full adult, were present at the Falls of the Ohio on December 18 and on count day; studied by two parties. The Oregon Junco was a black-headed male. A Red Phalarope, unable to fly, was found wandering in a southwestern Jefferson County yard on December 16, but died the next day.

Unusually high numbers of Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, and Song Sparrows were reported. Many water birds were missed, probably due to poor weather and high water conditions of Ohio River during previous week.—Leonard C. Brecher, Joseph E. Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Richard L. Lattis, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mrs. H. V. Noland, James C. Pasikowski, Louis Pieper, Mrs. Charles A. Robertson, Evelyn Schneider, Carl J. Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Lawrence D. Smith, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Chester Sundquist, Mrs. A. G. Susie (Beckham Bird Club).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Bend; deciduous woodlands 95%, brushy fields 2%, lakes and river 3%).—Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Clear but overcast in a.m. gradually changing to light sleet and snow flurries, then

steady rain; temp. 30° to 45°. Thirteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 28 (22 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 80 (10 on foot, 70 by car). Total, 50 species, about 2,448 individuals.

This was a good average count, both in species and individuals, with no new species and no species in unusual numbers. The only notable find of the 1971 count was the single Tree Sparrow, in the Houchens Ferry-Ollie section of the park, sighted by Dr. Shadowen's party. As far as I know, this is the first time this species has appeared on a Christmas Bird Count since the first cooperative count in 1956, when one bird was listed.—Mrs. H. B. Clark, Mrs. George Ellis, Jr., Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), Clay Pickard, Seneas Pickard, A. L. Powell, Jr., George Ray, Lewis Ray, Marvin Ray, H. E. Shadowen, Jeff Shadowen, Faye and Russell Starr.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center about 2 miles southwest of park entrance; area includes considerable fields outside park; deciduous woods 18%, brushy fields 35%, open fields 26%, hedgerows 5%, creeks, lake, and river 16%).—Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 28° to 40°; wind NW, 6 m.p.h. Small ponds frozen over, creeks and river open. Seven observers in 4 parties part of the time. Total party-hours, 30 (20 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 193 (28 on foot, 165 by car). Total, 63 species, about 8,374 individuals. (Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: Great Horned Owl.)

In general birds of prey were well represented, with a good count on Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks. Woodpeckers were about average, except for the Yellow-shafted Flicker. The Red-breasted Nuthatch set a new record for this count, so far as numbers are concerned. The Catbird was observed at close range, by Albert Westerman, in a low area of dense honeysuckle and red cedar. Weeds have been cut in the fields along the river, and may account for the sharp decrease in Field Sparrows. However, there was a noticeable increase in many species of seed-eating birds, such as Cardinals, White-throated, White-crowned, and Song Sparrows.—Joseph Croft, Wilbur Jackson, William Rowe, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm, Albert Westerman, and John Westerman.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse).—Jan. 1; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear in a.m. becoming increasingly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 28° to 50°; wind, 5-10 m.p.m.; ground bare, almost no ice. Thirty observers in 8-10, parties. Total, 63 species, about 9,325 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: *Green Heron* (well seen by Mrs. WBM), Pintail, Canvasback, Screech Owl, Short-eared Owl, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Siskin.)

The exceptionally mild fall, good weather on count day, and the large number of participants, resulted in unusually high counts on Mourning Doves and Brown Creepers. The 11 Palm Warblers were observed by three parties. The Chipping Sparrow was studied at close range by Frederick W. Loetscher as it fed on the ground; all points, including gray rump, were clearly noted. The bird was with 2 Palm Warblers.—W. C. Alcock, Al Byrd, Charlotte Caldwell, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Caldwell, Mrs. Richard Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cheek, Mrs. Stuart Early, Mrs. Arthur Jester, J. W. Kemper, Ross Kreamer, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Loetscher, Jr., W. H. Morgan, Mrs. W. B. Myers, Mrs. Virgil Reid, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Robinson, H. M. Wiley, C. A. Zimmerman (compiler), Mrs. C. A. Zimmerman, Mrs. R. W. Zimmerman.

RED-B. Merganser	21	31	2	1	3	1	4	7	2	31	7	22	31
TURKEY Vulture		7			7		1	1		7	1	1	1
SHARP-SHINNED Hawk							1					1	1
COOPER'S Hawk	2						1					1	1
RED-TAILED Hawk	18	•	1	7	4	3	5	10	11	24	1	10	14
RED-SH. Hawk	5	1			•	2	1		2	1			
ROUGH-L. Hawk	1				2	1			1	4			
GOLDEN Eagle	14	10											
BALD Eagle	2	1	•		1	1	21	10	58	52	5	2	53
MARSH Hawk	2	1	4	18	10	1	13	23	5		14		5
SPARROW Hawk	2	1	2		29	67			25	2	22		2
BOBWHITE	5	29			6	4	7	9	63	20	22		13
AMERICAN COOT	234	1100			6				19	4	1		7
KILLDEER	22	12	9	11					•				
COMMON SNipe									2				
RED PHALAROPE							3	1	12				
GLAUCOUS GULL							1	1	34				
HERRING GULL													
RING-B. GULL	176	2											
BONAPARTE'S GULL	522												
MOURNING DOVE	133	10	1	73	236	51	4	42	132	142	46	12	107
SCREECH OWL		2	2	2			1	•	1	•	1	1	4
GREAT HORNED OWL	1												
SNOWY OWL													
BARR'D OWL													
SHORT-EARED OWL													
BELTED KINGFISHER	9	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	8	6	9	3	1
YELLOW-SH. FLICKER	51	12	13	39	24	4	46	13	25	36	18	20	9
PILEATED WOODPECKER	5	4	1	4	7	8	3	17	9	16	11	1	2
RED-B. WOODPECKER	41	16	22	14	31	42	15	35	79	50	22	32	15
RED-H. WOODPECKER	8	10	1	15	31	9	3	42	1	4	2	4	1
YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER	4	3	3	1	1	7	5	5	3	7	3	2	4
HARRY WOODPECKER	4	3	3	1	19	12	6	5	3	19	15	7	3
DOWNY WOODPECKER	16	12	9	12	4	15	44	11	38	16	48	54	17
EASTERN PHOEBE													
HORNED LARK	10	8											
BLUE JAY	221	27	47	51	66	104	69	107	63	78	5	3	1
COMMON CROW	131	125	52	10	78	145	52	54	76	124	1199	3500	227
CAR. CHICKADEE	91	22	13	12	24	36	78	16	57	36	102	178	115
TUFTED TITMOUSE	69	10	50	11	15	42	63	4	74	41	118	142	72
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	17	3		1	2	5	1	16	1	19	23	3	2
RED-BR. NUTHATCH													
BROWN CREEPER	4	3		•	1	6	•	7	6	21	18	22	1

PURPLE FINCH	43	13	14	*	5	*	6	34	190	45	24	22	8	15	31	49
PINE SISKIN	131	26	4	15	6	29	171	170	36	20	139	219	127	96	66	110
AM. GOLDFINCH	77	31	8	5	8	62	20	21	21	8	75	31	3	15	19	14
BUFOUS-S. TOWHEE							*	2								2
SAVANNAH SPARROW																5
OREGON JUNCO	955	38	450	38	74	105	289	225	257	204	227	533	163	302	68	681
SLATE-COL. JUNCO	9		6	*		3	10	1	1		8	12	1		4	22
TREE SPARROW																
CHIPPING SPARROW																
FIELD SPARROW	43	14	14	38	1	44	78	6	17	13	10	58	11	103	10	84
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	4	60	42	9	19	50	31	1	7	108	65	55	9	6	45	8
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	92	16		3	23	9	64	87	20	59	147	194	122	161	46	348
FOX SPARROW	2	1	3			1	6	4	1	4		1			1	8
SWAMP SPARROW	15	27		9	4		9	6		14	44	14	1	4		50
SONG SPARROW	66	19	46	17	5	63	71	22	9	31	225	563	81	143	72	150

DATE OF COUNT	Dec.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.
	28	26	2	26	27	27	31	18	19	2	22	19	1	18	26	26
SPECIES	65	53	46	48	43	47	53	52	50	53	63	82	63	52	42	68
INDIVIDUALS	61440	1992	2384	2003645	704	2772	3274	24794	2448	3185	8374	21489	9325	4304	2224	26438
OBSERVERS	14	2	2	7	4	5	8	5	13	5	7	22	30	11	5	28

An asterisk (*) indicates that the species was recorded during the count period, but not on the count day.

FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 127 and KY 1900, 1.2 miles north of Frankfort, to include State Game Farm, Federal Fish Hatchery, and Buckley Hills Sanctuary; deciduous and cedar woods 20%, brushy fields 35%, pastures and cultivated fields 35%, town and suburbs 10%).—Dec. 18; 7:45 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 15° to 35°; wind SSW, 2-10 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 48 (40 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 193 (27 on foot, 166 by car). Total, 52 species, about 4,304 individuals.

This year's count does not seem unusual in most respects. Hawks were low in numbers with only the most common reported. Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant. Large flocks of blackbirds have been noted in our vicinity but could not be located on the day of the count. Sparrows were in average numbers, except for a noticeable increase in Field Sparrows.—Marvin Bing, W. P. Caine, Jr., E. J. Carr, Dennis Coskren, James S. Durell, Margaret Frymire, Bill Grayson, Charles Grayson, Mary Grayson, Howard P. Jones (compiler), Ferol Wilkerson.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 227 and KY 845 in Owen County, census conducted principally in the wildlife area itself; however roads, Kentucky River areas near Monterey, and the dam area at Elmer Davis Lake were also visited; deciduous woods 25%, cedar woods 10%, brushy fields 35%, field and pastures 20%, stream bottomland 10%).—Dec. 26; 7:40 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 26° to 65°; wind SW, 12-25 m.p.h. Ground cover damp, all water open. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (16 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 80 (12 on foot, 68 by car). Total, 42 species, about 2,224 individuals.

Only one duck, the Pintail, was seen; several parties of fishermen were on Elmer Davis Lake. The numerous Red-tailed Hawks in the wildlife area may be present because of the abundance of squirrels. The Great Horned Owl, carrying a freshly caught gray squirrel, was noted as it flew into a tree. Robins were numerous, with small flocks flying overhead constantly. Slate-colored Juncos and American Goldfinches seem to be in smaller numbers than usual.—Marvin Bing, Ellwood Carr, James S. Durell, Charles Grayson, Howard P. Jones (compiler).

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman on Bates Creek Pike, including 23 miles of Kentucky River, Lexington Reservoir, Nicholasville, and the University of Kentucky Experimental Farm; surface water 2%, deciduous woods 3%, towns and suburbs 4%, pastures, etc., 91%).—Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy to cloudy; temp. 26° to 50°; wind SSW to SW, light to 18 m.p.h. in afternoon; most water open. Twenty-eight observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours, 80 (46 on foot, 34 by car); total party-miles, 398 (34 on foot, 364 by car). Total, 68 species, about 26,438 individuals.

Colin Hyde reported the male Brewer's Blackbird. He said the bird was "noticeably iridescent and in good light" and its size and length of tail excluded the Common Grackle. Mr. Hyde is familiar with the species from his years of residence on the West coast, where they are seen frequently. The Evening Grosbeak was reported by Bernice McClure; it was at her feeder.—Glenn Bolin, C. Bull, Mary P. Burns, Dennis Coskren, Ruth Davis, Lyda Feck, Mike Flynn, Anna Heaton, Maude Hurt, Colin

Hyde, Dan Jervis, Elizabeth Lyne, Ruth Mathews, Betty Maxson, William T. Maxson, Bernice McClure, Robert McDowell, Bob Morris, Robert Norton, Tad Norton, Frank Pattie, Russell Parson, Alfred Reece (compiler), Virginia Reece, Barbara Ruff, Lenora Skiles, Chester West, William Woodward.

WILLARD (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Willard; same territory as in past 30 years; creek bottoms 40%, grown up fields 20%, deciduous woodlands 40%).—Dec. 26; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 58° to 60°. One observer. Total party-miles, 10 (10 on foot, 0 by car). Total, 25 species, about 215 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Sparrow Hawk, Barred Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow.)

There seems to be a decline in the number of Tufted Titmice in our area. Also, I have noticed fewer Cardinals this winter.—Ercel Kozee.

FIELD NOTES

WHISTLING SWANS IN BARREN COUNTY

On December 6, 1971, four "large white birds with long necks" landed on Poynter's Lake, a seven and one-half acre private fishing lake seven miles west of Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky. A fifth bird circled above the lake but did not land.

For the first two weeks the four Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*), three adults and one immature, left the lake in early morning and returned in late afternoon. Subsequently, the birds spent both day and night on the lake, with the exception of a daily short early morning flight above the lake.

One bird had a completely black bill with no sign of yellow; another had two spots of yellow in the bill, a small spot at the base and another along the side; the third had a large yellow spot at the base of the black bill. The immature bird was dusky, particularly about the neck, with a dull pinkish bill.

The birds left on January 16, 1972, when the lake froze over, and have not been reported again in the area.

Mr. L. A. Poynter, the lake's owner, was very proud of his unusual visitors and was in a position to see that the birds were not unduly disturbed. The swans became accustomed to feed at the edge of the lake where he tossed corn; and, although he says that at first they were quiet while on the water, after a few weeks they would occasionally honk loudly.—MARQUITA GILLENWATER, P.O. Box 526, Glasgow 42141.

A WINTER RECORD FOR THE SANDHILL CRANE

About noon on January 15, 1972, I saw a single Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in the big bottoms, just west of the bridge over Green River on the Western Kentucky toll road. I first noticed the bird as it flew under a big flock of Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*); its size and shape

interested me. Immediately, I stopped the car, picked up my binoculars and easily identified the crane. The bird made a big circle, perhaps a mile, then came back and settled within 200 yards of the road close enough so I could actually see the red on the head. It started to pick up something at the edge of the puddle, and was walking about when I pulled away.—KARL MASLOWSKI, 1034 Maycliffe Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230.

(Editor's Note: As far as I know, this is the first January record for the Sandhill Crane in Kentucky.)

RED PHALAROPE IN DECEMBER

At noon on December 17, 1971, Mrs. T. A. Vowels of 6110 Arlone Court, southwestern Jefferson County, Kentucky, telephoned Anne L. Stamm and asked for information concerning a "waterbird, possibly a sea gull" which she had found on the ground the previous day, in the vicinity of a large greenhouse near her house. It was thought that the bird had possibly injured itself in flight against the reflective surface of the glass in the greenhouse.

Mrs. Stamm inquired about the plumage of the bird, also suggested a suitable diet until it could be released at the Ohio River. She felt Mrs. Vowel's description of the bird warranted a very careful check, and at her request, I visited the above location that same afternoon, and made the tentative identification of Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). I communicated this information to Mrs. Stamm who confirmed the identification later when she picked up the bird, hoping to care for it.

The bird, in winter plumage, was in an extremely emaciated condition, did not respond to food, and expired within two hours. It was turned over to Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Department of Biology, University of Louisville, for a study skin.

Few records of this rare transient are available for Kentucky, and this date is believed to be the latest for its occurrence.—DONALD SUMMERFIELD, 9910 Prairie Drive, Valley Station 40272.

A TORPID CHIMNEY SWIFT

On the morning of October 9, 1971, at the Kentucky Ornithological Society meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Park, one field party of about 20 persons visited the Silo Overlook in the Land Between The Lakes located on the west shore of Lake Barkley in Lyon County (36° 54' N, 88° 01' W). The area on which this concrete block silo was located was once a flood plain farm on the bank of the Cumberland River, which has since been converted by the closing of Barkley Dam into a tortuous Barkley Lake, with numerous small islands or mud bars adjacent to the shores. Fortunately, the land rose rather steeply to the landward side of the silo, which was approximately fifty feet high by fifteen feet in diameter. The T.V.A. management had erected an elaborate board platform from the parking lot out to and surrounding the silo, with the planked floor four feet below the rim of the topless silo. This allowed visitors to peer down into it.

As we walked out on the ramp, three or four Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) were noted flying overhead. The area temperature was quoted at

a low of 48° for the night and at 8:45 a.m. the outside air temperature was probably 53°, although due to the morning dampness near the Lake, it felt more chilly than that. When we peered down into the silo, one Chimney Swift was still clinging to the wall, about twelve feet below the top. Several pictures were taken of this swift but due to the shaded interior, none resulted in sufficient detail to justify reproduction. In spite of the noise of conversation and the footsteps of persons walking around the platform, the swift remained motionless for over three quarters of an hour. After one hour it was found to have flown away unnoticed as the attention of the party was focused on flocks of geese or shore birds and gulls continually moving on the shore line or on strips of land barely showing above the water level.

The significance of this incident appears to be in the fact that on the preceding mid-afternoon, October 8, another party led by Mrs. F. W. Stamm at Honker Lake, about one mile away, observed a flock of 75 to 100 swifts. This, coupled with the facts that one swift was found dead on the ground outside the silo, and that on the following day, October 10, no swifts were recorded, might indicate that the entire population had left on its southward migration, due to the cooling weather.—LEONARD C. BRECHER, 1900 Spring Drive, Louisville 40205.

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN PROSPECT

On the morning of January 16, 1972, we were observing birds at our backyard feeder. The temperature varied from two to five degrees below zero and needless to say the birds were eagerly searching for food. After approximately one-half hour of watching, three Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) appeared at the feeder: two males, one female.

The feeder is very close to the window and we observed the birds eating sunflower seeds, at a distance of no more than five yards. The male, with its beautiful yellow-green color and black and white wings, was breath-taking. The female was much more drab in color, more of a grayish-buff, with a tinge of yellow on the nape and chest.

The birds were observed the next day, four this time, and at the time of this writing (February 19) at least eight have been seen.

Other interesting species observed around our house this winter included a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), and Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*).—JOHN KRULL and FRANK X. KRULL, 7304 Shadwell Lane, Prospect 40059.

(Editor's Note: The invasion of the Evening Grosbeak into Kentucky began in late November but did not reach its peak until late January and early February. This attractive bird normally winters far to the north of Kentucky, chiefly in the coniferous forests of the northeastern states and the Canadian provinces. However, this winter small numbers (1 to 20 birds) have been reported from the following localities: Anchorage (B. L. Monroe, Jr.), Ashland (Nell Goodman), Erlanger (Karl Maslowski), Lexington (Bernice McClure), Louisville (Catharine Noland), Madisonville (J. W. Hancock), Pleasure Ridge Park (Mrs. A. J. Steilberg, Sr.), Valley Station (Mrs. Arthur J. Steilberg, Jr., and Donald Summerfield.)



Photo by Mabel Slack

EVENING GROSBEEKS

(Reproduced from a color transparency)

EVENING GROSBEEKS INVADE OTTER CREEK PARK

On February 19, 1971, while checking for Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) along the Ohio River, at Rock Haven, Otter Creek Park, Meade County, I heard a rather harsh bird note and it caused me to stop and listen. The notes came from the tree branches above me; as I looked up, four Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) flew ahead of me and alighted in a tree farther up the bank. Although the birds moved about I could easily follow them as they called to one another. Later, I had the pleasure of showing the birds to the other members (William Alcock Byrd, Denny Cornett, Wilbur Jackson, Frederick W. Stamm) of our party. This is the first time we have recorded the Evening Grosbeak in Otter Creek Park.—ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS**SPRING FIELD STUDY**

It is time to start planning to join us at Bowling Green for our 1972 Spring Meeting, April 14-16. Our field trips will be to the interesting "transient lakes" and other selected areas. A good program is being planned. A full announcement of the program, hotel rates, and needed information will be sent you later.